

Pony Express
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UTAH
Alter Vol I

303

versation proceeded substantially as follows:

H. G.—What is the position of your church with respect to slavery?

B. Y.—We consider it of divine institution, and not to be abolished until the curse pronounced on Ham shall have been removed from his descendants.

H. G.—Are any slaves now held in this territory?

B. Y.—There are.

H. G.—Do your territorial laws uphold slavery?

B. Y.—Those laws are printed—you can read for yourself. If slaves are brought here by those who owned them in the states, we do not favor their escape from the service of those owners.

H. G.—Am I to infer that Utah, if admitted as a member of the Federal Union, will be a slave state?

B. Y.—No; she will be a free state. Slavery here would prove useless and unprofitable. I regard it generally as a curse to the masters. I myself hire many laborers, and pay them fair wages; I could not afford to own them. I can do better than subject myself to an obligation to feed and clothe their families, to provide and care for them in sickness and health. Utah is not adapted to slave-labor.

H. G.—With regard, then, to the grave question on which your doctrines and practices are avowedly at war with those of the Christian world—that of a plurality of wives—is the system of your church acceptable to the majority of its women?

B. Y.—They could not be more averse to it than I was when it was first revealed to us as the Divine will. I think they generally accept it, as I do, as the will of God.

H. G.—How general is polygamy among you?

B. Y.—I could not say. Some of those present (heads of the church) have each but one wife; others have more: each determines what is his individual duty.

H. G.—What is the largest number of wives belonging to any one man?

B. Y.—I have fifteen; I know no one who has more; but some of those sealed to me are old ladies whom I regard rather as mothers than wives, but whom I have taken home to cherish and support.

I have a right to add here, because I said it to the assembled chiefs at the close of the above colloquy, that the degradation (or, if you please, the restriction) of woman to the single office of child-bearing and its accessories, is an inevitable consequence of the system here paramount. I have not observed a sign in the streets, an advertisement in the journals, of this Mormon metropolis, whereby a woman proposes to do anything whatever. No Mormon has ever cited to me his wife's or any woman's

opinion on any subject; no Mormon woman has been introduced or has spoken to me; and, though I have been asked to visit Mormons in their houses, no one has spoken of his wife (or wives) desiring to see me, or his desiring me to make her (or their) acquaintance, or voluntarily indicated the existence of such a being or beings.

Camp Floyd, Utah, July 21, 1859.

CAMP FLOYD, forty miles south of Salt Lake City, is formed of low and neat adobe houses, generally small. I presume there are three or four hundred of them—enough, at all events, to make six or eight Kansas cities. "Frogtown" is a satellite, or suburb, whence grog and other luxuries (including execrable whisky at about ten dollars per gallon) are dispensed to thirsty soldiers who have not already drank up more than their pay amounts to. The valley is covered with sage-bush and grease-wood, as usual; but the camp has been freed from these, and is mainly level as a house-floor. The adobes were made on the spot by Mexicans; the boards for roofs, finishing off, etc., supplied by Brigham Young and his son-in-law, from the only canon opening into Salt Lake Valley which abounds in timber (yellow-pine, I believe,) fit for sawing.

The army in Utah has numbered three thousand five hundred men—I believe its present strength is but about three thousand. It is mainly concentrated in this camp, though some small detachments are engaged in surveying or opening roads, guarding herds, etc., in different parts of the territory. I presume this is still the largest regular force ever concentrated upon the soil of our country in time of peace.

Very general, then, is the inquiry in the army, Why were we sent here? and why are we kept here? What good can our remaining do? What mischief can it prevent? A fettered, suspected, watched, distrusted army—an army which must do nothing—must not even be asked to do anything in any probable contingency—what purpose does it subserve beyond enriching contractors and Mormon magnates at its own cost and that of the federal treasury? Every article eaten, drank, worn, or in any manner bought by the soldiers, costs three to ten times its value in the states; part of this extra cost falls on the treasury, the residue on the troops individually. Their position here is an irksome one; their comforts few; home, family, friends are far away. If the policy now pursued is to prevail, they cannot be needed in this territory. Why, then, are they kept here? Brigham Young will contract, and make money by contracting, to put down all resistance to this policy at one-tenth the cost of keeping the army here: why, then, not withdraw it?

A suspicion that it is kept here to answer private pecuniary ends is widely entertained. It is known that vast sums have been made out of its transportation by favored contractors. Take a single instance already quite notorious: twenty-two cents per pound is paid for the transportation of all provisions, munitions, etc., from Leavenworth to this point. The great contractors were allowed this for transporting this year's supply of flour. By a little dexterous management at Washington, they were next allowed to furnish the flour here—Utah flour—being paid their twenty-two cents per pound for transportation, in addition to the prime cost on the Missouri. As Utah has a better soil for growing wheat than almost else, they had no difficulty in subletting this contract at seven cents per pound net, making a clear profit of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars on the contract, without risking a dollar, or lifting a finger. Of course, I expect contractors to bargain for themselves, not for the government, but somebody is well paid for taking care of the public's interest in such matters. Has he done his duty?

Again, pursuant to a recent order from Washington, the Assistant Quartermaster-General here is now selling by auction some two thousand mules—about two-thirds of all the government owns in this territory. These mules cost one hundred and seventy-five dollars each, and are worth to-day one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty dollars. I attended the sale for an hour or so this forenoon; the range of prices was from sixty to one hundred and fifteen dollars; the average of the seven hundred already sold about seventy-five dollars. Had these mules been taken to California, and there properly advertised and sold, they would have brought nearly cost; even at Leavenworth, they must have sold for at least one hundred thousand dollars more than here, where there is practically no demand and no competition for such an immense herd; and, after every Mormon, who can raise a hundred dollars or over, shall have supplied himself with a span of mules for half their value, one or two speculators will make as much as they please, while the dead loss to the people will be at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Nobody here has recommended the sale of these mules; they were being herded, under the care of detachments of the army, at no cost but for herdsmen, and they could have been kept through next winter, in secluded mountain valleys, at a cost of about ten dollars per head; whereas the army can never move without purchasing an equal number; and they can neither be bought here nor brought here for two hundred thousand dollars more than these animals are now fetching. Somebody's interest is subserved by this sale; but it is certainly not that of the army nor of the

people. The order is to sell seven hundred wagons as well; but these would not bring thirty dollars each, while they cost at least one hundred and thirty, and could not be replaced when wanted even for that, while the army cannot move without them, and keeping them costs absolutely nothing. Who issues such orders as this, and for whose benefit?

But it will be said that forage is dear in Utah. It would suffice to answer that idle mules obtain, save in winter, only grass growing on the public lands, which may as well be eaten in part by government mules as all by those of the Mormon squatters. But let us see how it costs so much. There have recently been received here thirty thousand bushels of corn from the states at a net cost, including transportation, of three hundred and forty thousand dollars, or over eleven dollars per bushel. No requisition was ever made for this corn, which could have been bought here, delivered, for two dollars per bushel, or sixty thousand dollars in all. The dead loss to the treasury on this corn is two hundred and eighty thousand dollars, even supposing that the service required it at all. Somebody makes a good thing of wagoning this corn from the Missouri at over ten dollars a bushel. Who believes that said somebody has not influential and thrifty connections inside of the War department?

The Deseret News, November 23, 1859

THE EYES! THE EYES!!

DR. L. M. PALMER, of Ogden, having located himself in this city, hereby informs the Public that he is ready to officiate as an OCULIST. Those afflicted with diseased eyes will do well to give him a call.

Office: East Temple street, at the residence of George Stringham. 38-3m

The Deseret News, November 30, 1859

CHEAP LESSONS!!!

MRS. ELEANOR PRATT proposes to instruct a CLASS of MARRIED LADIES in Grammar and Composition, in the PRATT SCHOOL HOUSE, beginning on the 1st Monday in December. Three Lessons a week at one dime a lesson. 38-2

G. S. L. City, Nov. 28, 1859.

Editor of *The News*—Dear Brother:

On Thursday the 10th inst., at about 11 o'clock a. m., pursuant to instructions received from the Presidency of the Church, we proceeded to Cache valley, seventy-five miles north, to organize the settlements.

A president was duly elected by the people, to preside over all the branches or Wards in that valley. Six Bishops were also ordained and set apart to act in their calling,

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FRANK C. BOURNE

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xmtoon bridge. Pontoon bridges are especially impor-
ant during wartime. These bridges are built to replace
ose that have been destroyed by enemy forces. Special
xmtoon-laying troops bridge streams with mechanical
nactness, even under fire. The soldiers lay the flooring,
ection by section, fastening it securely to the pontoons.
Pontoon bridges are usually of limited strength, al-
though sufficient to carry ordinary road vehicles.
Soldiers must break step in crossing them to prevent
the swaying of the bridge caused by marching in time.

The importance of pontoon-bridge building was
own on all European fronts during World War II.
Retreating troops blew up many bridges across im-
portant rivers. Engineers of pursuing armies built pon-
toon bridges, permitting troops and mechanized equip-
ment to cross. In the United States, pontoons have
een used for permanent bridges in places where deep
water makes pier construction too expensive. Three
arge concrete floating bridges have been built in Wash-
ington. One of these has the longest floating span in
North America. This span stretches 7,518 feet (2,291
meters) across Lake Washington.

ROBERT G. HENNES

See also ROMAN EMPIRE (color picture: The Roman
Army).

PONTOPPIDAN, HENRIK. See NOBEL PRIZES (table:
Nobel Prizes for Literature—1917).

PONTUS was an ancient area on the south shore of
the Black Sea in Asia Minor. It reached its greatest im-
portance under King Mithridates VI (120?-63 B.C.). At
that time, it included other nearby areas in what is now
Turkey, and lands north of the Black Sea in what is
now southern Russia. Mithridates fought three wars
against Rome. After the last one, in 63 B.C., the victori-
ous Roman general Pompey divided Pontus into two
parts. One was combined with the Roman province of
Bithynia. The other became the Roman province of
Pontus. See also MITHRIDATES VI.

HENRY C. BOREN

PONTUS EUXINUS. See BLACK SEA.

PONY. See HORSE (Ponies); SHETLAND PONY.

PONY EXPRESS. Daring horseback riders of the pony
express once carried United States mail between St.

PONY EXPRESS

Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif. The mail then
was taken by steamer to San Francisco, Calif. The serv-
ice began on April 3, 1860. Its promoters meant to
prove that the central route followed by the pony ex-
press was better than the longer southern route used by
the stagecoaches of the Butterfield Overland Mail.
Senator William M. Gwin of California was the chief
promoter of the pony express. A freight firm, known as
Russell, Majors, and Waddell, backed the project.

The pony express route followed the well-known
Oregon-California Trail, along the Platte River in
Nebraska, through South Pass in Wyoming. At Fort
Bridger, Wyo., the riders left the emigrant trail, swung
to the south of the Great Salt Lake, and then headed
due west across the salt desert to the Sierra Nevada
mountains at Carson City, Nev. This route saved over
100 miles (160 kilometers). Relay stations stood 10 to 15
miles (16 to 24 kilometers) apart along the route. Lonely
keepers maintained the stations and ponies.

Young pony express riders rode at top speed from one
station to the next. As the rider approached the station,
the keeper brought out a fresh horse, which was saddled
and ready to travel. The rider jumped from his horse,
grabbed the mail bags, and was on his way again in two
minutes' time. Usually each man rode 75 miles (121
kilometers). But if a rider could not carry the mail, the
first rider kept going. There were about 190 stations,
400 keepers and assistants, 400 horses, and 80 riders.

Pony express riders earned \$100 to \$150 a month.
Riders usually carried only two revolvers and a knife as
defense against attacks by Indians and bandits. They
rode day and night in all kinds of weather. The mail
was lost only once in the 650,000 miles (1,050,000 kilo-
meters) ridden by the pony express.

Riders carried the mail in leather, rainproof pouches,
strapped to the front and back of the saddle. The post-
age rate, at first \$5 a half ounce, later became \$1. The
mail never weighed over 20 pounds (9 kilograms).

The first pony express trip took 10 days to cover the

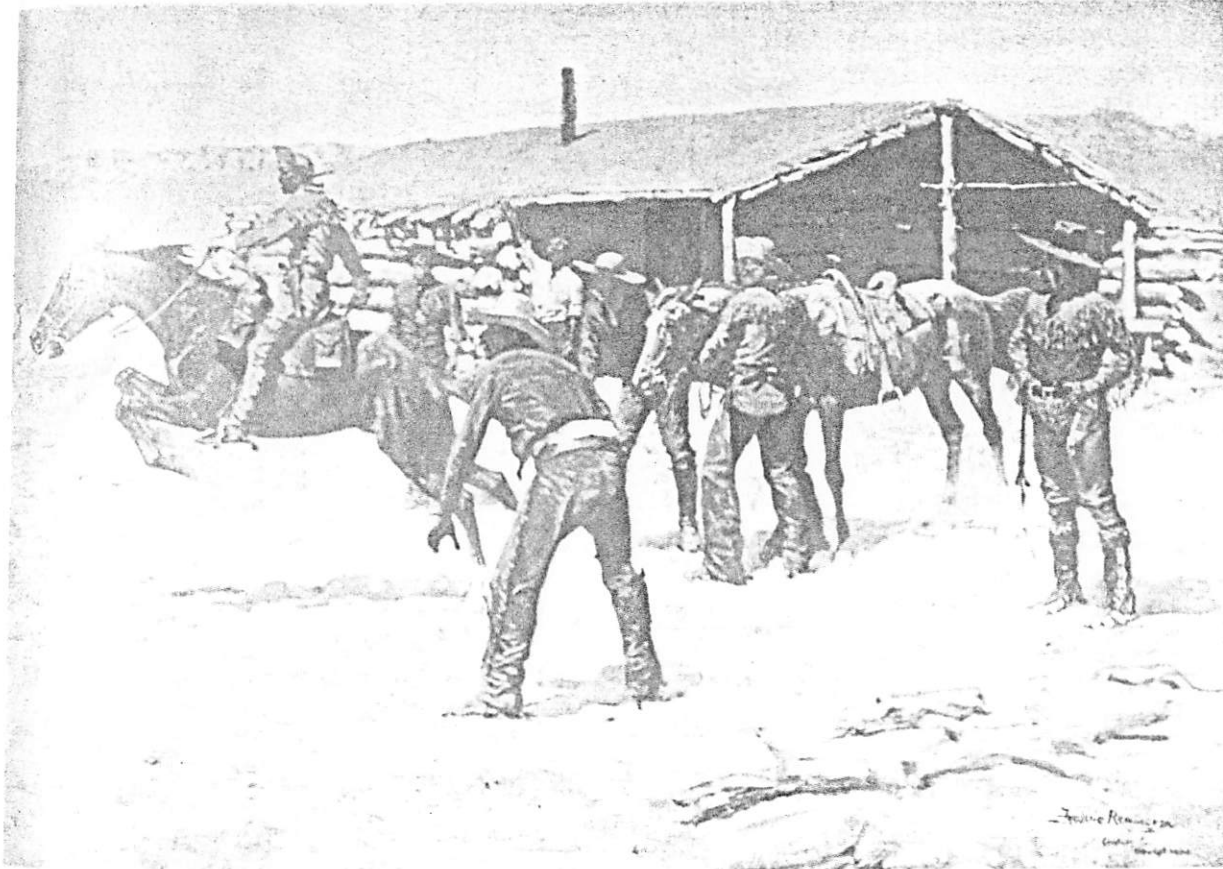
Oil painting on canvas (1900); Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Okla.



A Pony Express Rider
switches to a fresh mount and
begins another step of his dan-
gerous dash across the West.
The American artist Frederic
Remington captured this scene
in his painting, *The Coming and
Going of the Pony Express*.

Started 13 Apr 1860
Ended: 24 Oct 1861
Pony Express

Oil painting on canvas (1900); Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Okla.



A Pony Express Rider switches to a fresh mount and begins another step of his dangerous dash across the West. The American artist Frederic Remington captured this scene in his painting, *The Coming and Going of the Pony Express*.

POODLE

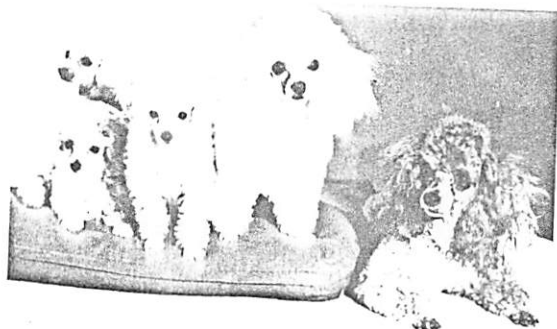
distance of 1,966 miles (3,164 kilometers). Later trips were made in eight or nine days. This was 12 or 14 days shorter than the time required by the Overland Mail. Once the mail was carried from Fort Kearny, Nebr., to Fort Churchill, Nev., in six days, a record. The rider on this trip carried the news of Abraham Lincoln's election in November, 1860. On short stretches, riders occasionally rode 25 miles (40 kilometers) per hour. Nearly 250 miles (402 kilometers) a day was normal.

The pony express ended on Oct. 24, 1861. There was no need for it, because the telegraph now stretched from coast to coast. The promoters of the pony express were ruined financially.

W. TURRENTINE JACKSON

See also WESTERN FRONTIER LIFE (Communication); NEBRASKA (picture: Pony Express Station); KANSAS (Places to Visit [Hollenberg Station]).

POODLE, *POO duhl*, is one of a breed of smart, friendly house dogs. It was once used as a hunter and retriever, but it is no longer classed as a field dog. The poodle originated in Germany in the 1500's. Today, it is found throughout Europe and North America. Poodles may be white, black, gray, blue, brown, or apricot. Their hair is curly or frizzy, and the coat is usually



Marcellia Harris

Curly-Coated Poodles Are Intelligent, Friendly Dogs.

clipped in any of several styles. The three varieties of poodles are classified by shoulder height. The *toy* is 10 inches (25 centimeters) or under; the *miniature* is from 10 to 15 inches (25 to 38 centimeters); and the *standard* is over 15 inches. Poodles weigh from 3 to 60 pounds (1.4 to 27 kilograms).

JOSEPHINE Z. RINE

POOL. See BILLIARDS.

POOL. See TRUST.

POOLE, WILLIAM FREDERICK. See LIBRARY (Libraries in the United States).

POONA, *POO nuh* (pop. 856,105; met. area pop. 1,135,034), is the third largest city in the state of Maharashtra, India. See INDIA (political map). Poona, which lies in the hills, is the summer headquarters of the Maharashtra government. It is the site of Deccan University, Fergusson College, the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, and the Deccan Education Society. Cotton, penicillin, and sugar are chief industries. Dairying is important to the area.

ROBERT I. CRANE

POOR CLARES, ORDER OF. See FRANCISCANS.

POOR PEOPLE'S MARCH. See BLACK AMERICANS (The King Assassination).

POOR RELIEF. See POVERTY; WELFARE.

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC

was an almanac written and published by Benjamin Franklin. The famous American statesman created the almanac early in his career, when he was a printer and publisher in Philadelphia. He issued it for every year from 1733 to 1758.

Franklin wrote the almanac under the name of Richard Saunders, an imaginary astronomer. Like other almanacs of its time, *Poor Richard* included such features as astrological signs, practical advice, jokes, poems, and weather predictions. At first, Richard had little wit or humor. But as his character developed, he became a clever spokesman for Franklin's ideas on thrift, hard work, and simplicity. *Poor Richard's Almanac* grew into one of the most popular and influential works printed in colonial America. Franklin published the almanac under his own name.

In each edition of the almanac, Richard offered his

XII Mon February hath xxviii days.

Man's rich with little; were his Judgment true,
Nature is frugal, and her Wants are few;
Those few Wants answer'd, bring sincere Delight,
But Fools create themselves new Appetites.
Fancy and Pride seek Things at vast Expence,
Which relish not to Reason nor to Sense
Like Cats in Airpumps, to subside we live;
On Joys too thin to keep the Soul alive.

M W Remarkable Days, H D ☉ rises Lunations,
D. D. Aspects, Weather w. pl land sets. ☾ rises & sets

1	7	* ♀ plea	5	21	6	48	6	Last Quarter
2	E	Spring tides	9	7	6	47	6	☾ with ☿
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4	3	Δ h ♀ wind	11	17	6	44	6	☾ rises 42 m
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6	5	perhaps some	12	28	6	42	6	☾ rise 9 7
7	6	rain o D ♀	1	22	6	40	6	☾ in ☿
8	7		2	24	6	39	6	☾ rise 5 32
9	E	Shrove Sunday	3	26	6	38	6	New ☾ 9 d 27
10	2	☿ rises 1 38	3h	18	6	37	6	at 3 morn.
11	3	Shrove Tuesday	4	7	6	35	6	☾ with ☿ & ♀
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13	5	* ♀ Δ h ♀	5h	23	6	33	6	Health, is a
14	6	Valentine	6	8	6	32	6	Man's best
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17	2	clouds with	9	11	6	28	6	First Quarter
18	3	wind and	10	25	6	26	6	Sirius to 7 43
19	4	Ember Week	10	26	6	25	6	* ♀ set 12 o
20	5	☾ ☿ rain	11	21	6	23	6	☾ sets 4 2 mo
21	6	or snow	12	9	6	22	6	☾ rises 8 11
22	7	then change-	1	18	6	20	6	A quarrelsome
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24	2	St. Matthias	3	18	6	18	6	Full ☾ 24 day
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28	6	☾ ☿ end	6	17	6	13	6	Neighbours

This Page from *Poor Richard's Almanac* opens with the moral saying that "Man's rich with little, were his Judgment true, Nature is frugal, and her Wants are few."

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Pop Art Pain
(1965) by Roy L